

PLANNING AHEAD

Notes for the Planning and Policy
Community



US Army Corps
of Engineers

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Planning Community of Practice Conference 2008

By Bruce Carlson, Headquarters

Tom Waters did not hesitate when I asked him what the theme for our 2008 Planning CoP Conference should be: “Planners are the strategic leaders of the Corps.” This simple but encompassing vision will shape our next event, to be held **May 20-22, 2008** in **San Antonio, Texas**.

The title of the conference will be **Planners Leading Strategically: Developing Sound Water Resources Solutions**. The conference will be structured to emphasize how the Planning Community of Practice supports the strategic direction of the Corps. Planners are encouraged to start thinking now about attending the conference, and discussing your plans with your supervisors to make sure you can attend.

The 2008 conference will provide a forum to discuss planning issues and innovations related to Corps strategic initiatives including **systems approaches, risk informed decision making, risk communication, collaborative planning, and professionalism and technical expertise**.

Topics will be presented in a mix of joint and concurrent sessions, including plenary sessions addressing big-picture topics, and concurrent sessions highlighting “field applications,” “corporate issues,” and meetings of the economics, environmental, plan formulation, and cultural resources Sub-CoPs.

The format that will allow for discussions of policy and strategic initiatives, field lessons learned, case studies, and current and potential future issues facing the Corps. Issues relating to the full range of Corps activities, across mission areas and across the full project life-cycle may be discussed.

The conference has numerous objectives:

- **Strategic goals** – communicate how the Planning organization is advancing to meet USACE strategic initiatives such as the Campaign Goals, the Civil Works Strategic Plan, the Actions for Change, and the USACE Environmental Operating Principles;
- **Policy** – communicate the latest advances in policy and its implementation – peer review plans, external peer review, model certification, planning in a collaborative environment, addressing the Four Accounts, and WRDA (if passed) ;
- **Technology transfer** – communicate the latest technical information and tools among members of the Community of Practice to increase product quality and responsiveness;

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- **Lessons learned and best practices** – share what works and what doesn't in the areas of analytical techniques, policy compliance and the planning and study processes, LEAN assessments, etc.;
- **Professional Development** – help individuals focus career goals to enhance themselves and the overall Planning Community of Practice; and,
- **Sub-Cop Activities** - provide settings for sub-CoPs to meet and further their development

Watch *Planning Ahead* for more information about the 2008 Planning Community of Practice Conference. The “Call for Abstracts” will be issued in the December issue of *Planning Ahead*, so start thinking about topics and how they will highlight aspects of the Conference Theme. Watch, too, for the launch of the Conference web site in the near future.

WORDS FROM THE EDITOR

In this month's issue of *Planning Ahead*, **Ted Hillyer** of the Institute for Water Resources provides information on the interest rates to be used in the conduct of Corps planning studies and evaluation of projects.

Dr. Hank Jarboe of the Great Lakes and Ohio River Division provides a description of LRD's Environmental Community of Practice video-teleconference on the subject of real estate issues in the context of ecosystem planning studies.

Stuart Davis of the Institute for Water Resources provides an announcement of an upcoming workshop on IWR-GeoFIT in Chicago at the end of November.

Brian Harper of the Institute for Water Resources provides an overview of the subject of risk analysis and risk informed planning. As you may recall, Bruce Carlson of Headquarters wrote an article on this subject in the May 2007 issue of *Planning Ahead* in which he wrote about risk informed planning vis-à-vis the “12 Actions for Change.” It is anticipated that Brian's article will be the first in series of articles on the subject of risk analysis and risk informed planning.

Paul Rubinstein, Deputy Federal Preservation Officer writes about the inclusion of anthropologists and other social scientists within the military fighting force.

Greg Steele of the Norfolk District and a member of the Planning Associates Class of 2007 writes about the

concluding activities of this year's Planning Associates program, the presentation of the class Critical Think Pieces and graduation ceremony.

Rich Whittington of the Institute for Water Resources writes about the recent participation of Dr. Jerome Delli Priscoli (Senior Water Policy Advisor at the Institute) at the 2007 World Water Week activities in Stockholm, Sweden and the 2007 Regional Water Symposium in Tucson, Arizona.

Dr. Delli Priscoli is currently working on the planning of the 5th World Water Forum to be held in Istanbul, Turkey in March 2009.

Also included in this issue are listings of employment opportunities around the Corps including the announcement of a temporary position at the Institute for Water Resources to assist in the planning and organizing of the 5th World Water Forum, with the duty station in Istanbul.

Information on PROSPECT training courses, other conferences and recently released reports are also provided.

Thank you for your contributions and your continued interest in *Planning Ahead*.

Ken Lichtman, Editor
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Federal Interest Rates for Corps Projects (4 7/8%) and Unit Day Values for Recreation - Fiscal Year 2008

Ted Hillyer, Institute for Water Resources

The Federal interest rates for use in Corps studies and projects for FY 08 are as follows:

- Project Evaluation and Formulation Rate (Discount Rate): 4-7/8%. This rate is limited to a 1/4% change from the previous year. For this year since the rate is the same as last year, the limited rate is the same as the published rate.
- Water Supply Act of 1958 as amended by Section 932 of WRDA for 30-year repayment: 4-7/8%. This value includes the 1/8 % for transition costs.
- Water Supply Act of 1958 Section 301(b): 7.457%
- Hydropower: 4-7/8%

These rates are published annually by the U.S. Treasury and can be found this year on their web site at:

http://www.treasurydirect.gov/govt/rates/tcirt/tcirt_opdirannual.htm.

The Unit Day Values for Recreation for FY 08 vary from \$3.40 to \$10.20 for General Recreation and from \$13.82 to \$40.38 for Specialized Recreation.

Current normalized agricultural prices, published by the U.S. Department of Agriculture, are also now available.

Economic Guidance Memorandums (EGMs) on the above data have been published on the CECW-CP website at:

<http://www.usace.army.mil/cw/cecw-cp/library/egms/egms.html>.

Additional EGMs for Ability to Pay and for National Flood Insurance Program administrative costs will be developed and posted when the data become available.

For additional information on these and other EGMs you may contact Bruce Carlson (CECW-PC) at:

bruce.d.carlson@usace.army.mil or by phone at (202) 761-4703.

Great Lakes and Ohio River Division Environmental Community of Practice Conducts Video Teleconference on “Real Estate Issues in Ecosystem Restoration Projects”

Dr. Hank Jarboe CELRD-PDS-P

On September 13, 2007, the Great Lakes and Ohio River Division (LRD) Planning Environmental Community of Practice (ECoP) conducted a video teleconference (VTC) on the subject of Real Estate Issues in Ecosystem Restoration Projects. The VTC was hosted by the LRD Regional Ecosystem Restoration Center at the Division Office in Cincinnati, OH. The VTC was broadcasted to

the District and Division offices of LRD where there were an estimated 40 participants in attendance throughout the Division. This VTC was the ninth in a series of presentations organized by the LRD ECoP.

The LRD Division office opened the VTC by presenting a summary of the ECoP topic and provided the purpose and objective of the VTC. Mr. William White, the Planning and Acquisition Lead for Real Estate in the Division Office, was the VTC presenter.

Mr. White opened the presentation by introducing the Division Real Estate staff and provided an overview of the LRD Military and Civil Works Real Property Management programs.

The subjects covered by Mr. White's presentation included defining common real estate terms including, takings analyses, navigation servitude, and riparian rights; aspects of an appraisal, a discussion of conservation easements, and the essentials of a good real estate plan.

The last item covered by the presentation involved a discussion of the lessons learned in addressing real estate issues during the preparation of decision documents. Alternative methods to the various issues in the decision documents were provided.

The VTC concluded with an open session of questions and answers and a general discussion where there was a sharing of professional experiences and information. Corps employees can view the VTC PowerPoint

presentation for this ECoP session at the Great Lakes and Ohio River Division ECoP Knowledge Dispatch website located at <https://dispatch.lrd.usace.army.mil/cop/environmental/> in the folder entitled "LRD Environmental Community of Practice VTC Presentations.

Those participating in the VTC were provided an official Certificate of Participation. The VTC was videotaped and is available on CD for those interested in obtaining a copy.

For additional information, the copy of the presentation on CD, or comments on this or any previous LRD ECoP presentations please contact Dr. Hank Jarboe at (513) 684-6050 or by e-mail at hank.jarboe@lrdor.usace.army.mil.

Announcement of IWR-GeoFIT Training: One-Day Free Workshop, Chicago, Illinois November 29, 2007

Presented by IWR-GeoFIT Application Developer Greg Gagliano of HDR, Inc

IWR-GeoFIT (Geospatial Floodplain Inventory Tool) is a GIS-based application that is set up to work with ArcGIS® and the Marshall-Swift/Boeckh Residential and Commercial Estimator Programs® for collecting and batch processing of inventory data, computing depreciated structure values, and exporting data to the HEC-Flood Damage Analysis (HEC-FDA) program for computation of expected annual flood damage. GeoFIT has already saved New Orleans District hundreds of hours in data collection and processing time.

This is a hands-on workshop meant for Corps economists, project planners, GIS specialists, and anyone else involved in floodplain inventory and analysis of floodplain inventory data, and contractors with active contracts to do floodplain inventory work for the Corps.

This training is free, and it may be your only chance to receive IWR-GeoFIT training this year. The training will be held at the Chicago District office at 111 N. Canal Street, Chicago.

Make your reservation for the training by calling or e-mailing Stuart Davis at IWR, 703/428-7086, Stuart.A.Davis@usace.army.mil

A block of rooms has been reserved at the Crowne Plaza Metro Hotel, 733 W. Madison, Chicago, Illinois. The hotel is half mile from the district office, near the University of Illinois Chicago Circle Campus, in the heart of Greektown.

A block rooms will be held at the government rate until November 7th at the government rate of \$205 per night on November 28th and 29th.

Call the Crowne Plaza Metro Hotel at 312-829-5000 and ask for a reservation under the "Corps of Engineers GeoFIT" block. Here is a link to the hotel's website: <http://www.ichotelsgroup.com/h/d/cp/1/en/hotel/chish?requestid=462293>

Risk Analysis and Risk Informed Decision Making: An Overview

By Brian Harper, Institute for Water Resources

This article, the first in a series of articles to discuss risk analysis and risk informed decision-making, is drawn from a white paper on the same subject developed by a team led by Dr. David Moser of the Institute for Water Resources. This article gives an overview of risk analysis, while future articles will address each step of the planning process and specific techniques for incorporating risk analysis into our work.

Risk Defined

Risk is the probability of an undesirable outcome; the result of a hazard and its associated consequences. A hazard could be a natural phenomenon (hurricane), or it could be a process-related event (funding shortfall). The associated consequences could be harm to people and assets, failure to meet project intent (schedule, budget, performance), or opportunities lost (e.g. habitat restoration or transport routes).

Much of the recent risk discussion within the agency has focused on flood risk, as a result of the tragedies wrought by Hurricanes Katrina and Rita. However, this article will explain that risk analysis concepts are flexible and scalable, and should be integrated into all mission areas.

What is Risk Analysis

Risk analysis is a science-based methodology that integrates scientific evidence with social values to produce decisions. Risk analysis is comprised of three tasks: risk assessment, risk management, and risk communication.

1. Risk assessment is a systematic process for quantifying and describing the nature, likelihood, and magnitude of risk associated with a situation, action, or event. The assessment includes consideration of relevant uncertainties.
2. Risk management is the process used to identify, evaluate, select, implement, monitor and modify actions taken to alter levels of risk. The goal of risk management is scientifically sound, cost-effective, integrated actions that reduce risks while taking into account economic,

environmental, social, cultural, ethical, political and legal considerations.

3. Risk communication is the open, two-way exchange of information and opinion about hazards and risks leading to a better understanding of the risks and better risk management decisions.

Figure 1 shows the interrelatedness of the three parts of risk analysis and the notion that risk communication is a vital and joining activity that must take place for the analysis to be an effective decision framework. Note that the technical scientific work takes place in the risk assessment, while risk management is more concerned with social values and policy.

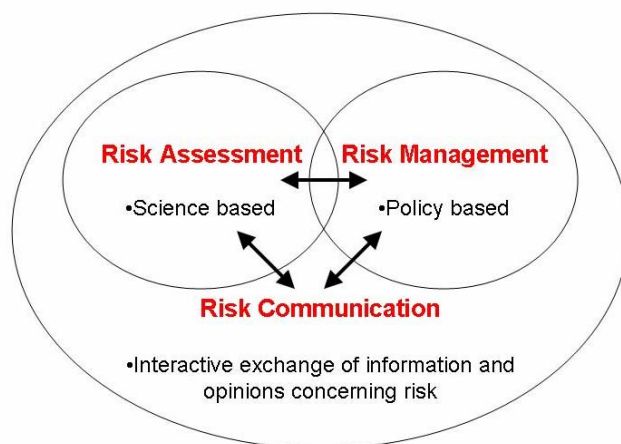


Figure 1: Three Parts of Risk Analysis

Source: <http://www.who.int/foodsafety/micro/riskanalysis/en/>

Risk Analysis & The Six-Step Planning Process

Risk analysis forms a decision framework that can be applied broadly. Corps teams and managers can begin to incorporate risk analysis techniques into their work by addressing the following four risk assessment questions:

1. What can go wrong?
2. How can it happen?
3. How likely is it?
4. What are the consequences?

The four risk assessment questions can guide planning teams, and other decision-analysis teams, through a risk assessment of their project or investment decision.

However, the analysis does not end with the assessment. People engage in risky activities (e.g., living in floodplains) for many good reasons, so risk management is used to balance desirable outputs versus undesirable consequences.

The actual or expected benefits associated with each risk should be identified and understood. It is important to know who benefits and in what ways. The magnitude and importance of those benefits need to be weighed to find the balance point between risks and benefits, so that risk management decisions can be made. That, in a nutshell, is planning – planning within a risk analysis framework.

The proposed (2007) OMB Risk Assessment bulletin defined risk assessment as “a scientific and/or technical document that assembles and synthesizes scientific information to determine whether a potential hazard exists and/or the extent of possible risk to human health, safety, or the environment.” This definition of risk assessment aligns well with the work that is typically completed during steps one and two of the six-step planning process, in which planning teams 1) identify problems and opportunities, and 2) inventory & forecast conditions.

The remaining steps of the planning process aid the team in making risk management decisions. Alternatives would be formulated to reduce risk, and the alternatives would be evaluated and compared to each other on the basis of how they reduce risk. The implication of this is

that the Corps will likely expand beyond traditional decision criteria, typically a combination of NED and NER benefits. No new decision criteria have been established in policy yet, but the explicit consideration of risk to human health and safety, particularly fatality risk, should be part of all studies and project evaluations.

Other critical risks to people, the environment, or the economy may be revealed when the risk assessment questions are answered. These critical risks may influence the iterative formulation process, and the effectiveness of risk management alternatives would be evaluated and compared during steps four and five of the planning process.

The point is that risk analysis augments the existing process, and the application of these methods is scalable, depending on the severity of any risks identified when the four assessment questions are considered.

Summary

Risk analysis is a three-part process that is flexible and scalable. The process can be applied to any investment decision, whether for a new project, allocation of O&M funds, or upgrades to back-office decisions. The process begins with the four risk assessment questions that help us to identify the hazard and the consequences now and in the future: 1) What can go wrong; 2) How can it happen; 3) How likely is it; and, 4) What are the consequences? Once this risk is identified, teams and managers can begin to identify and choose risk management options to reduce residual risk. Techniques exist to facilitate decision-making within this risk analysis framework and those techniques can and should be adapted to fit the variety of risks to be managed around the Corps.

Warfare and the Social Scientist

By Paul Rubinstein

Deputy Federal Preservation Officer

Office of the Chief of Engineers

In the early 1960s Senator Barry Goldwater wrote a landmark book entitled “The Conscience of a Conservative” in which he provided a blueprint for government and social policy that revolutionized political thinking and set a course for conservatism that saw its nadir with Ronald Reagan and his administration’s agenda. More recently, the late Senator Paul Wellstone published “The Conscience of a Liberal” in which he argued for greater compassion in government and a philosophy more aligned with Abraham Lincoln, whose cornerstone of thought about government was that “it should do for the people what they are unable to do for themselves.”

Today, we are focused on the conscience of the anthropologist, or at least one aspect of that conscience. Questions are rising to the surface of our scientific discipline about the role of anthropologists, archeologists and social scientists in war. Be it Afghanistan, Iraq or the Global War on Terror, social scientists of all types are being drawn into the military at an ever increasing rate to support an understanding of what is rapidly being referred to as the “human terrain.” Human terrain teams seem to be defined not in neat terms of military jargon but more by their composition and operational goals. In a recent New York Times article, journalist David Rohde described a human terrain team as having combined cultural anthropologists and other social scientists with forward deployed troop units to “understand subtle points of tribal relations . . .” and to look at military operations “from a human perspective, from a social scientist’s perspective.”

Embedding anthropologists and social scientists with combat ready troops is not a new concept. David Price of St. Martin University will soon publish a book titled Anthropological Intelligence: The Deployment and Neglect of American Anthropologists in the Second World War. Again, in Vietnam and Latin America the social sciences have been used in counterinsurgency campaigns. Some claim, however, that the military has used social scientists to exploit political gain. The Times article cites Hugh Gusterson, an anthropology professor at George Mason University and ten other anthropologists who are calling for the demilitarization of the anthropological sciences. Robert Gonzalez, a professor at San Jose State University in California warns that participants in an experimental Army program utilizing

social scientists “are naïve and unethical.” In contrast, Army managers utilizing social scientists insist that anthropologists are enhancing the military’s knowledge of the social and cultural landscape so as to avoid the failures in communication and mutual understanding experienced in earlier encounters with local civilians. They refer to “anthropologizing the military rather than militarizing anthropology.”

So far, the results have been encouraging and Defense Secretary Robert Gates has dedicated forty million dollars to support “human terrain” efforts. The Times’ Rohde notes that “American officers lavishly praise the anthropology program, saying that the scientist’s advice has proved to be ‘brilliant’, helping them see the situation from an Afghan perspective and allowing them to cut back on combat operations.” In one instance, Rohde documents an anthropologist’s efforts to organize widows in an Afghan village into work cooperatives. The new source of income meant reduced the burden on sons who were turning to Taliban insurgent groups for well paying jobs.

The struggle for the conscience of the anthropologist will not soon end. The World Archeological Congress, scheduled for June 2008 in Dublin, Ireland has released information about a conference theme on Archeology and War that appears to limit participation to groups and individuals holding to anti-war and anti-involvement principles. A heated dialogue is on-going about the range of views to be expressed and what it means to hold a truly open forum.

The anthropologist engaged in public service will be at the center of the debate. Those supporting the human terrain effort will be seen by government and military leaders as specialists working to decrease conflict and improving an understanding of distant cultures and distant lands. There are others in academia and the scientific community who will view the effort as serving the interests of the military, intelligence agencies and contractors. There is concern that the entire discipline of Anthropology will be harmed in the end.

As unlikely as it may have seemed a few years ago, anthropologists and social scientists may find themselves with issues as monumental as those faced by the Goldwaters and Wellstones of the the past. At least we know what they knew - - that hearts, minds and consciences are won at great cost and with much debate.

2007 Planning Associates Conclude the Year in DC

By Greg Steele, Norfolk District

September found the 2007 PAs back in Washington, D.C. for the final session of the PA Program – the Critical Think Piece (CTP) presentations and the awards ceremony. The CTP is the capstone project of the PA Program – meant to allow the PA sub-teams to spend the year examining an issue or problem relevant to the Corps and “think outside the box” on ways to address it. At the end of the year, the individual PA sub-teams present their CTP to an audience of senior staff and personnel from HQ, the MSCs and Districts, and then hold a Q&A session to discuss their individual CTP.

This year’s PA class was divided into three sub-teams – Team Triple Play, consisting of Beth Cade (LRH), Brad Foster (SAJ), and Kim Gavigan (SPL); Team Four-Sight, consisting of David Bucaro (LRC), Naomi Fraenkel (NAN), Brian Rast (NWK), and Jeff Tripe (SWF); and Team Tenacious Goats, consisting of Laura Orr (NWS), Shawn Phillips (MVM) and Greg Steele (NAO). Team Triple Play developed a CTP addressing what the role is for a Corps Civil Works Planner, and how can Corps planners bridge the gap between the varying types of planning on local, state and Federal levels. Team Four-Sight developed a CTP evaluating the potential for incentive-based cost sharing, and a method for implementation of such an initiative. Team Tenacious Goats developed a CTP to propose a new method of budgeting for the Ecosystem Restoration business line to better address regional variances and competing needs.



Jeff Tripe, David Bucaro, Naomi Fraenkel and Brian Rast take questions from the audience during their CTP Presentation

All three CTP presentations generated much discussion during the Q&A sessions. Everyone from SES’ers to PA spouses had questions and feedback for thought on future development of these ideas. An executive summary on each of the three CTPs, as well as the CTP white papers

and presentations will be placed on the Planning CoP website and the IWR Planning Associates site in the near future.

Following the CTP presentations, the PAs were ready to relax and unwind from a very long, fun and stressful year. To do so, we reserved the rooftop patio at Joe Theismann’s restaurant in Old Town Alexandria for an afternoon reception for all those who helped us along the way. The view of the Washington, D.C. skyline, the beautiful weather, the great food, wonderful company and camaraderie made for a memorable evening, and a great way to end the year.



Relaxing on the rooftop of Joe Theismann’s, celebrating a challenging year

The next day, the PAs traveled bright and early to the GAO building for the awards ceremony. The ceremony started with a slide presentation of memories throughout the year, and transitioned into a heart-felt welcome from Mr. Harry Kitch.

After Mr. Kitch spoke about the PA program and his perspective, Mr. Tom Waters spoke about his feelings on the PA program, his life in the Planning Community of Practice, and his pride in being an honorary member of the 2007 class. Once Mr. Waters concluded his remarks, Mr. Steve Stockton spoke to the audience about the PA 2007 class, the program, and about the view from the Civil Works directorate.

Finally, the Commanding General, LTG Van Antwerp, addressed the audience. General Van Antwerp gave a thought-provoking speech about his view of the world, the Army, the Corps and the individual. He provided insight into how the Corps will move forward under his command, and the many areas in which we are serving

the nation and the world. He also included an interesting personal fact in his remarks – he and Mr. Waters were classmates at the U.S. Military Academy in West Point. He concluded his speech by presenting each of the PAs with his Commander's Coin and along with Mr. Waters and Mr. Stockton, an individual Certificate of Achievement for completing the Planning Associates Program.

Once the presentations were over, the PAs had a few awards of their own to hand out. First, the PAs presented General Van Antwerp with their Class Coin, as a sign of appreciation and thanks. Second, the PAs wanted to show their personal gratitude to a few individuals who spent a lot of time and energy shepherding us along our way throughout the year. To do so, we presented framed photographs with personal notes of thanks to Tom Waters, Harry Kitch, Joy Muncy and Judy Morrison.



LTG Van Antwerp, Steve Stockton and Tom Waters join the Planning Associates Class of 2007 for one final picture for the year!

With the awards ceremony concluded, the PAs said their farewells and headed back to their respective districts. It has been a long, wild and interesting year. We will be forever grateful for the wonderful people we have met along our journey that helped make our experience so rewarding. Thanks to you all (you know who you are) for all your hard work!

As a final note, we would like to extend our congratulations to the 2008 Planning Associates class – Tara Anderson (SAW), Candida Bronson (SAJ), Mike Dietl (SPK), Tony Friona (LRB), Adam Fox (LRE), Miki Fujitsubo (SPK), Miriam Gilmer (NWS), John Peukert (MVK), Ron Pinzon (NAN), Jeff Strahan (NAO), Bret Walters (POA) and Gregg Williams (MVM). Best wishes and good luck to you all!



Greg Steele presents Harry Kitch with a gift from the 2007 PAs in appreciation for his support of the PA Program.

IWR Staff Member Participates in International and Regional Water Conferences

By Richard Whittington, Institute for Water Resources

This past August, Dr. Jerome Delli Priscoli, Senior Water Policy Advisor on the staff of the Institute for Water Resources (IWR) represented the Corps and IWR at the official activities associated with [World Water Week 2007](#) in Stockholm, Sweden. Dr. Delli Priscoli, who also serves as a member of the executive bureau of the [World Water Council](#), met with members of the international steering committee for the [5th World Water Forum](#). As such, he worked with ambassadors from the Turkish foreign ministry, representatives of the Mayor of Istanbul, a member of the Turkish Parliament, and the Turkish General Directorate of State Hydraulic Works (DSI) to outline final plans for the 5th World Water Forum to be held in Istanbul, Turkey in March 2009. IWR is assisting the U.S. State Department, the World Water Council, and DSI in organizing and participating in the 5th World Water Forum.

Also as part of the preliminary organizational activities surrounding the 5th World Water Forum Dr. Delli Priscoli organized a special session for the U.S. Department of State and the Deputy Assistant Secretary of State with key water donors from several countries to discuss plans for the 5th World Water Forum. Dr. Delli Priscoli has upcoming meetings planned with several Ambassadors from key countries involved in the 5th World Water Forum.

While in Stockholm, Dr. Delli Priscoli participated with the President of the World Water Council in private meetings with selected senior officials of the United Nations and the Minister of Water from the Republic of South Africa.

Also, Dr. Delli Priscoli moderated a panel session with The Nature Conservancy on the topic “Partnerships for Large Scale River Basin Conservations”, attended by representatives from China, Brazil, and officials from the Zambezi River Basin region.



Dr. Delli Priscoli at The Nature Conservancy Session of World Water Week

While at the meetings with representatives of various governments, Dr. Delli Priscoli gave a presentation on partnership agreements and activities between the Nature Conservancy and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers.

In late August, Dr. Delli Priscoli participated in the 2007 Regional Water Symposium entitled [“Sustainable Water, Unlimited Growth, Quality of Life: Can We Have it All?”](#) co-sponsored by Southwest Hydrology magazine, the Arizona Hydrological Society, and SAHRA (Sustainability of semi-Arid Hydrology and Riparian Areas).

As the name of the symposium implies, the topics covered during the plenary and smaller breakout sessions focused on the themes of growth and development in the Southwestern region of the United States, the availability of water, water quality, state water policies, water re-use, water use and energy demand, riparian water issues, regional water management efforts, and water data availability and management.

During the symposium, Dr. Delli Priscoli gave a plenary address on the subject of Integrated Water Resources Management and moderated a panel discussion on the subject of water supply and public policy.

Additional information on the activities of Dr. Delli Priscoli and the Institute for Water Resources can be found at <http://www.iwr.usace.army.mil>.

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES

These are but a few of the many available positions advertised on the Army's Civilian Personnel on line website:
<http://cpol.army.mil>

DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY

Vacancy Announcement Number: **NCFL07333108**

Opening Date: October 24, 2007 **Closing Date:** November 13, 2007

Position: YA-3:Community Planning (0020), Economist (0110)

Salary: \$75,879 - \$127,030 Annual

Place of Work: US Army Corps of Engineers, Institute for Water Resources, International Water Resources, Alexandria, VA

DUTY STATION: Istanbul, Turkey

Position Status: Temporary Position Not to Exceed: 1 year -- Full Time

Number of Vacancy: 1

NSPS Position: This position is covered by the National Security Personnel System. For more information on NSPS, please visit the website at <http://www.cpms.osd.mil/nsps/index.html>.

About the Position: Serve as USACE & USG detail to the Secretariat of the 5th World Water Forum (WWF) in Istanbul, Turkey coordinating with USACE Institute for Water Resources, HQUSACE, Department of State, Federal agencies, NGOs & the World Water Council (WWC) & other international organizations to plan for the 5th WWF to be held in Istanbul, Turkey 15-22 March 2009. Provide representation of USACE at the General Directorate State Hydraulic Works for Turkey (DSI) & the Secretariat of the 5th WWF.

The Institute for Water Resources will pay salary, travel cost & per diem. A letter of endorsement from your immediate supervisor may be required at the time of selection.

Pay listed above does not include an additional 30% Cost of Living Allowance (COLA) and 10% Post Differential.

DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY

Vacancy Announcement Number: **SWHB07292557**

Opening Date: October 19, 2007 **Closing Date:** November 19, 2007

Position: GS-13:Geographer (0150), Economist (0110), Biologist (0401), General Engineer (0801), Architect (0808), Civil Engineer (0810), Environmental Engineer (0819), Mechanical Engineer (0830), Electrical Engineer (0850), Chemical Engineer (0893)

Salary: \$75,414 - \$98,041 Annual

Place of Work: US Army Engineer District, Little Rock, Programs and Project Management Division, Little Rock, AR

Position Status: Temporary Position Not to Exceed: 1 year -- Full Time

Number of Vacancy: 1

DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY

Vacancy Announcement Number: **SWGR07267978**

Opening Date: October 17, 2007 **Closing Date:** November 16, 2007

Position: DB-4/GS-12/14: Supervisory Biologist (0401), Supervisory Ecologist (0408), Supervisory Wildlife Biologist (0486), Supervisory Civil Engineer (0810), Supervisory Environmental Engineer (0819)

Salary: \$63,417 - \$115,848 Annual

Place of Work: US Army Engineer Research & Development Center, Environmental Laboratory, Ecosystem Evaluation & Engineering Division, Vicksburg, MS

Position Status: This is a Permanent position. -- Full Time

Number of Vacancy: 1

Duties: Plan and manages ERDC's ecological resources research and development activities in support of Corps of Engineers, Army, DoD and other federal and state agencies responsible for environmental stewardship and natural resource management. Conducts field and laboratory research to enhance basic knowledge of ecosystem processes in terrestrial and riparian communities. Develops methods and procedures to assess and minimize adverse human impacts on ecological systems, restore system functions and promote environmental sustainability. Research topics include maintenance of biodiversity, cumulative impact, habitat modeling and assessment, ecological engineering, stream corridor restoration, shoreline erosion control, and human dimensions of natural resources stewardship.

TRAINING COURSES

Upcoming PROSPECT training courses of interest to the members of the Planning CoP include:

FLOOD WARNING PREPAREDNESS PROGRAM (Control Number: 345)

March 31— April 4, 2008

Omaha, NE

This course provides participants with an understanding of nonstructural flood damage reduction measures generally, and Flood Warning/Preparedness Programs specifically. The course presents an overview of planning, design, and implementation considerations for nonstructural measures. A more detailed discussion of the technical requirements for planning, designing, and implementing flood warning systems is presented. The course also emphasizes the roles and responsibilities of local, state, and federal agencies and includes presentation of several case examples.

Nonstructural flood damage reduction measures are an important consideration in flood damage reduction planning. Flood Warning/Emergency Preparedness Programs can be an important nonstructural component in flood damage reduction plans. The programs often are an integrated federal/state/local set of activities tailored to a specific local community situation. The Corps can have a significant role in this area.

The course offers opportunities to professional staff in flood plain management, hydraulics and hydrology, emergency operations, and civil works planning studies to become knowledgeable in this area. Through lectures and workshops, students explore topics on (a) nonstructural flood damage reduction measures overview; (b) flood warning/preparedness programs overview; (c) roles of the National Weather Service, the Federal Emergency Management Agency, and others; (d) flood threat recognition systems; (e) data collection and management; (f) warning dissemination and emergency response; (g) Corps emergency operations; (h) plan formulation and evaluation; (i) FPMS Program and flood preparedness; (j) implementation of flood preparedness programs; (k) private sector activities; and (l) many case examples.

PLANNING FOR ECOSYSTEM RESTORATION (Control Number: 348)

May 5-8, 2008

Phoenix, AZ

Ecosystem restoration is a priority mission in the Corps' Civil Works program. Together with traditional environmental mitigation, restoration spans the range of resources from fish and wildlife to watersheds and ecosystems. The formulation and evaluation that leads to restoration projects require a collaborative approach that also involves local sponsors and other stakeholders. This course explores key issues related to the current practice of ecosystem restoration planning: current and evolving policy, definition and measurement of ecosystem outputs, resource significance, plan formulation, and cost effectiveness/incremental cost analyses. Case studies and a half-day field trip to a local Corps restoration project will be utilized to illustrate current practices.

Within the context of the six-step planning process, the following topics will be discussed: (a) Authorities for Corps involvement in ecosystem restoration projects, (b) Environmental outputs and tools available for measuring them, (c) The meaning of resource significance and the importance of the evaluation criteria of efficiency, effectiveness, acceptability and completeness in ecosystem restoration, (d) Fundamentals of ecological principles and processes, (e) Management measures, (f) How risk and uncertainty factor into ecosystem restoration evaluation, (g) The purpose of Cost Effectiveness and Incremental Cost Analysis, (h) How to formulate jointly for ecosystem restoration (NER) and National Economic Development (NED) benefits. (NOTE: Although this course addresses evaluation tools and procedures for ecosystem restoration planning, this is not a course in the theory/mechanics of ecological or habitat models such as HEP or HGM).

To attend these courses or to receive additional information about these or other PROSPECT training courses, please contact the USACE Learning Center at <http://pdsc.usace.army.mil>.

CONFERENCES

2007 Assembly of the Gilbert F. White National Flood Policy Forum

November 6-7, 2007 Washington, DC

For additional information: <http://www.floods.org/Foundation/Forum.asp>

Estuarine Research Federation 2007 – “Science and Management”

November 4-9, 2007 Providence, RI

For additional information: <http://erf.org/erf2007/>

7th National Conference on Transportation Asset Management

November 6-8, 2007 New Orleans, LA

For additional information: <http://www.TRB.org/conferences/2007/Asset>

Water in the Pacific Northwest: Moving Science into Policy and Action

November 7-9, 2007 Stevenson, WA

Additional information: <http://capps.wsu.edu/WaterPolicy/index.html>

10th International Workshop on Wave Hindcasting and Forecasting & Coastal Hazard Symposium

November 11-16, 2007 North Shore, Hawaii

Additional information: <http://www.waveworkshop.org/>

AWRA Annual Water Resources Conference

November 12-15, 2007 Albuquerque, NM

Additional information: http://www.awra.org/meetings/New_Mexico2007/index.html

The Center for Strategic Leadership. United States Army War College

“Threats at Our Threshold: Securing and Defending the United States in the 21st Century” Symposium

November 14-15, 2007 Carlisle Barracks, PA

Additional information: <http://www.carlisle.army.mil/usacsl/events.asp>

Texas Water Development Board – 2007 Water Summit

December 2-4, 2007 San Antonio, TX

Additional information: <http://www.twdb.state.tx.us/about/watersummit/2007/index.asp>

Riparian Habitat Joint Venture Conference

December 4-6, 2007 Sacramento, CA

Additional information: <http://www.prbo.org/calpif/rhjcconference/index.htm>

Optimizing Decision-Making and Remediation at Complex Sediment Sites

January 8-10, 2008 New Orleans, LA

Additional information: <http://www.smwg.org>

2008 USACE Planning Community of Practice Conference

May 20-22, 2008 San Antonio, TX

4th International Symposium on Flood Defense

May 14-16, 2008 Toronto, Canada

Addition information: <http://www.flood2008.org/flood/>

Association of Flood Plain Managers 2008 Annual Conference

May 18-23, 2008 Reno-Sparks, NV

Additional information: <http://www.floods.org/Conferences,%20Calendar/Reno-Sparks.asp>

PUBLICATIONS

The following is a list of recently published reports, studies, or articles prepared by the Corps of Engineers, other Federal agencies, or other research organizations:

“Water Resources Development Act (WRDA): Corps of Engineers Project Authorization Issues,” by Nicole T. Carter, H. Steven Hughes, Pervaze A. Sheikh, and Jeffrey A. Zinn, Congressional Research Service, August 24, 2007. Publication number RL 33504.

“National Flood Programs and Policies in Review — 2007” prepared by the Association of State Floodplain Managers, Inc. Available at: http://www.floods.org/Publications/NFPPR_2007.asp

“Water Implications of Biofuels Production in the United States”, Committee on Water Implications of Biofuels Production in the United States, National Research Council, October 2007. Available at: http://books.nap.edu/catalog.php?record_id=12039

“The US Economic Impacts of Climate Change and the Costs of Inaction,” prepared by the Center for Integrative Environmental Research (CIER) at the University of Maryland, October 2007. Available at: <http://www.cier.umd.edu/documents/US%20Economic%20Impacts%20of%20Climate%20Change%20and%20the%20Costs%20of%20Inaction.pdf>

“Infrastructure to 2030: Telecom, Land Transport, Water and Electricity”, published by the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development, June 2006, Available at: https://www.oecd.org/document/60/0,3343,en_2649_33707_36964924_1_1_1_1,00.html

“Infrastructure to 2030 (Volume 2): Mapping Policy for Electricity, Water and Transport”, published by the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development, 2007, Available at: https://www.oecd.org/document/49/0,3343,en_2649_33707_38429809_1_1_1_1,00.html

“A Unified Sediment Transport Formulation for Coastal Inlet Application” by Benoit Camenen and Magnus Larson, Engineer Research and Development Center, Coastal and Hydraulics Laboratory, September 2007. ERDC/CHL CR-07-1. Available at: <http://cirp.wes.army.mil/cirp/pubs/pdf/CR-07-1.pdf>

HOW TO CONTRIBUTE TO *PLANNING AHEAD*

Planning Ahead is designed to foster communication amongst the members of the Planning community of practice within the Corps, with those other members of the Corps family with which planners interact on a daily basis, and with members of the general public outside of the Corps. It is our goal that future editions of the newsletter will include information and perspectives of those members of the planning community on the front lines of the Corps' planning efforts, the District and Division offices. We hope that this newsletter becomes a forum to share your experiences to help the entire planning community learn from one another. We welcome your thoughts, comments, questions, suggestions, success stories, and lessons learned, so that we can share them with the broader community. Submissions should be moderate in length (4-5 paragraphs), except in cases where the article is compelling and circumstances warrant a lengthier treatment of the subject. The article should be prepared as a MS Word document. Pictures accompanying submitted articles are welcome. Pictures must be in JPEG format.

The deadline for material to be published in the next issue of *Planning Ahead* is
Wednesday, November 21, 2007

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